

29 March 1971

69

SPECIAL INFORMATION REPORTTentative Plans for Joint Demonstrations to Commemorate the Third Anniversary of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Scheduled from 2-5 April 1971 at New York

Massive demonstrations principally at New York City have been called by representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the National Welfare Rights Organization, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee and the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice to commemorate the King assassination. A partial list of the architects of early April activities includes Dr. Ralph Abernathy, chairman of the SCLC; George Wiley, executive director of the NWRO; Dave Dellinger, Vietnam Peace Parade Committee; Bob Albert, War Tax Resistance; Al Evanoff, District 65 of the Distributive Workers Union (New York); Al Hubbard, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; and Sidney Peck, PCPJ. The participation of Caesar Chavez of the UFWOC remains somewhat in doubt. His organization, however, has been represented in planning for this event.

The principal demands of this series of demonstrations will be a guaranteed income of \$6,500 a year, an end to hunger of the nation's 15 million hungry, decent jobs for all workers, the right of all workers to organize for just pay, the abolition of capital punishment and equal justice for the rich and the poor, quality education, the 18-year-old vote, an end to the war now, and a total rejection and official repudiation of racism in all aspects of American life.

Cordell Jackson, coordinator for the SCLC (at New York), has detailed the following scenario for this series of demonstrations:

On 2 April the third anniversary of the King assassination will be marked in New York by a march on City Hall at noon to demand decent housing for welfare recipients. Other actions on 2 April will include teach-ins and school assemblies. On Saturday, 3 April, a "people to people talk festival" will be staged at the Central Park Band Shell near 72nd Street. Music and entertainment will open the festival.

(is was of this report 13:20 Daily Mail)

[REDACTED]

and a "people's meeting" will begin at about 1:00 p. m. Principal scheduled speakers for the 3 April rally are Abernathy, George Wiley, Dave Dellinger, Doris Turner of the Drug and Hospital Workers Union, Jeanette Washington who is regional chairman of the NWRO; and Mary Emeny who is representing the "People's Peace Treaty."

On 4 April Abernathy reportedly will lead a mule train to a large church somewhere in the city (not further identified) where he will conduct services.

On 5 April participants will focus their attention on the "profiteers of war and poverty," in a march on Wall Street. The parade is scheduled to commence at 14th Street and Union Square and continue down Broadway culminating in a rally at the Treasury Building at 12:30 p. m. Other participants in this march are reported to be Hosea Williams of Operation Breadbasket (a Chicago affiliate of SCLC), Democratic Congresswoman Bella Abzug, and a representative from the UFWOC. Reportedly, the principal organizations for these four days of actions across the nation will be joined by groups of trade unions, peace groups, Negro, Mexican-American and Puerto Rican liberation groups, women's organizations, and civil rights groups. Although demonstrations will take place in other parts of the country, specific details are sparse. The principal action is definitely planned for New York City where the principal leaders of all participating groups will be found on this weekend. Planned events for New York should draw large numbers of people, mostly Negroes and young radical whites. From press coverage carried recently in the Daily World, it appears that this event is fully endorsed and probably supported by the CPUSA. It additionally has been reported that financial assistance has come from the PCPJ.

Disruptions will probably occur on Monday the 5th, but violence does not appear to be on the schedule and probably will not occur.

---